

Amendment and Response

Applicant: Robert William Dobbs et al.

Serial No.: 10/619,026

Filed: July 14, 2003

Docket No.: 200205329-1 (H300.205.101)

Title: ASSEMBLY FOR SUPPORTING A SHORT PRINTED CIRCUIT CARD

REMARKS

This Amendment is responsive to the Office Action mailed April 22, 2004. The Examiner has withdrawn claims 8, 11, 21, and 23 from consideration as being drawn to nonelected species and being dependent on respective generic claims not yet allowed. In addition, claims 1-4, 6, 9, 10, 12-17, 19, 22, and 24-26 were rejected. Claims 5, 7, 18, and 20 were objected to. With this Response, claims 1, 7, 13, 20, 24, and 26 have been amended. Claims 1-26 remain pending in the application and are presented for reconsideration and allowance.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-4, 6, 9-10, 12-17, 19, 22, and 24-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Barringer et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,606,255.

The Examiner objected to claims 5, 7, 18, and 20 as being dependent upon rejected base claims. However, the Examiner stated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, which is noted with appreciation.

With this response, independent claim 1 has been amended to recite certain of the allowable limitations of dependent claim 7, and independent claim 13 has been amended to recite certain of the allowable limitations of dependent claim 20.

Specifically, amended independent claim 1 includes an assembly for supporting a short printed circuit card having a first edge in a computer system, wherein at least one card support block is adapted to couple and be movably attached to a card slot separator. Amended independent claim 13 includes an assembly coupled to a card slot separator in a computer system for supporting a short printed circuit card having a first edge, the assembly comprising at least one card support block movably attached to the card slot separator and having a card receptor adapted to couple with the first edge of the short printed circuit card. It is respectfully submitted that the Barringer et al. Patent does not teach or suggest these limitations of amended independent claims 1 and 13.

The Examiner takes the position that claims 24-26 recite steps that would have been inherent in the product structure. However, Applicants respectfully note that independent claim 26 is not a method claim; rather claim 26 is an apparatus claim that claims an assembly for supporting a short printed circuit card.

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Amended independent method claim 24 includes a method of supporting a short printed circuit card in a computer system comprising movably attaching at least one card support block to a card slot separator.

Amended independent apparatus claim 26 includes an assembly for supporting a short printed circuit card having a first edge in a computer system, the assembly comprising at least one card support block having a card receptor adapted to couple with the first edge of the short printed circuit card, wherein the at least one card support block is adapted to couple and be movably attached to the card slot separator.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that amended independent claims 24 and 26 each recite a portion of the allowable subject matter that is not taught or suggested by the Barringer et al. Patent.

Independent method claim 25 includes a method of supporting a short printed circuit card having an interior edge coupled to at least one card support block, wherein the short printed circuit card is insertable into a computer system having a bulkhead guide, a connector plane, and a card slot separator. Applicants respectfully submit that these limitations are not taught or suggested by the Barringer et al. Patent.

Dependent claims 2-12 further define patentably distinct independent claim 1; and dependent claims 14-23 further define patentably distinct independent claim 13. Therefore, these dependent claims are also believed to be allowable.

It is respectfully submitted that claims 8 and 11 are dependent to generic claim 1 which is believed to be allowable, and claims 21 and 23 are dependent to generic claim 13, which is also believed to be allowable.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) rejections to claims 1-4, 6, 9-10, 12-17, 19, 22, and 24-26, and removal of the objections to dependent claims 5, 7, 18, and 20, and allowance of all pending claims 1-26.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that pending claims 1-26 are in form for allowance and are not taught or suggested by the cited reference. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections and objections and formal allowance of

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claims 1-26 is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone the Applicants representative at the below listed number to facilitate prosecution of this application.

Any inquiry regarding this Amendment and Response should be directed to either David A. Plettner at Telephone No. (408) 447-3013, Facsimile No. (408) 447-0854 or Patrick G. Billig at Telephone No. (612) 573-2003, Facsimile No. (612) 573-2005.

In addition, all correspondence should continue to be directed to the following address:

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Respectfully submitted,

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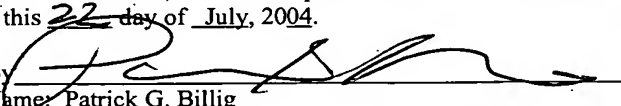
July 22, 2004


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Reg. No. 38,080

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this paper or papers, as described herein, are being deposited in the United States Postal Service, as first class mail, in an envelope address to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on this 22 day of July, 2004.

By


Name: Patrick G. Billig